

		Winners			Runners-up		
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Emil & Gene	63%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bob P & Jo	57%	
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Douwe & Jacques	65%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bill & Mike	62%	
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Bob P & Eddie	57%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bill & Mike	55%	

**Bidding Quiz**

**Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.**

Hand A	Hand B	
♠ 2	♠ J	With Hand A RHO opens 2♠, what do you bid?
♥ J63	♥ KJ3	
♦ AK106	♦ KJ952	With Hand B you open 1♦ and LHO doubles. Partner jumps to 2♠, what do you do?
♣ KJ1042	♣ AQ74	
Hand C	Hand D	
♠ 72	♠ J7	With Hand C partner opens 2♠ (Muiderberg, weak with 5 ♠'s and a 4 card minor). What do you bid?
♥ J10953	♥ J32	
♦ A8	♦ 109843	With Hand D LHO opens 2♠ and partner bids 2NT. RHO bids 3♠ and this is passed round to partner who doubles. What do you do?
♣ KQ103	♣ K32	
Hand E	Hand F	
♠ K	♠ A3	With Hand E LHO opens 2♠ (Muiderberg, weak with 5 ♠'s and a 4 card minor) and this is passed round to you. What do you bid?
♥ AK86	♥ AK75	
♦ J76432	♦ AJ8	With hand F everybody is vulnerable. (a) what do you open? (b) Suppose you choose 2♣ and LHO bids 2♠ which partner doubles. What do you bid?
♣ J4	♣ AQ85	

**Bidding Sequences Quiz**

G	2♣	2♠	dbl	2♣ is strong, what is the dbl?
H	1♦	dbl	1♠	What is the 1♠ bid - weakish or forcing?
J	1♦	dbl	2♣	What is the 2♣ bid - weakish or forcing?
K	1♦	dbl	2♠	What is the 2♠ jump - weakish or forcing?
L	2♠	2NT		What is the 2NT overcall?
M	2♠	3NT		What is the 3NT overcall?
N	2♠	dbl	3♠ pass	2♠ is weak, dble is take-out...
	pass	dbl		... what is this 2 <sup>nd</sup> dbl?
P	2♠	2NT	3♠ pass	2♠ is weak, 2NT is natural with decent ♠ stop(s)...
	pass	dbl		... what is dbl?

## A two level bid after RHO has doubled is weak Board 7 from Monday 17<sup>th</sup>

What was your answer to questions J and K in this week's sequence quiz? Whether a jump or not, a 2-level bid after RHO has doubled is always weak and pre-emptive: -

Dealer:	♠ 107654	West	North	East	South(B)
South	♥ Q5	-	-	-	1♦
Both vul	♦ 843	dbl (1)	2♠ (2)	pass	2NT (3)
	♣ J62	pass	pass	dbl (4)	pass
		pass			

♠ AQ73	N	♠ K92
♥ A10986	W E	♥ 742
♦ 107	S	♦ AQ6
♣ 53		♣ K1098
	♠ J	
	♥ KJ3	
	♦ KJ952	
	♣ AQ74	

- (1) I would prefer to bid 1♥ as you are fixed if partner responds 2♣.
- (2) This is a weak pre-emptive bid.
- (3) What did you bid with this South hand B in this week's quiz? You should pass. South thought that North's bid was strong.
- (4) East knew that North's bid was weak.

And what happened? 1100.

The bottom lines: -

- When partner opens and RHO doubles then any 2-level bid (jump or not is) is weak.
- It appears that this is not common knowledge in the club, so I have decided to write a page called 'When RHO Doubles'. It's now on the web (in the Basic Bidding section) and in the conventions folder. I decided to reproduce it later in this news-sheet.

### Rudeness and behaviour at our club.

How many times to I have to say it? To date I have expelled more than ½ a dozen players because of bad manners, rudeness and general bad behaviour. Do people think that I am joking when I warn them? Emil was apparently very rude to a lady on Monday. I also heard from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party that he was continually rude/aggressive towards his partner; this is **totally** unacceptable.

I had a word with him (I have also done so in the past – to little effect it appears) and he will be suspended from the club if I get another complaint. **Clear enough?**

I also had problems with Hans Kaechelle. Much the same applies to him but he is a very poor player as well as being uncouth. He does not play bridge, but slams the cards down as if playing some German farmer's game. I have now told him that he will not be guaranteed a game at the club unless he comes with a partner, and if I get another complaint he too will be suspended.

So here it is, with names: **Emil Stranz** and **Hans Kaechelle** will both be suspended/banned from the club if I hear another whisper of a complaint. Also, I will no longer guarantee a partner for either of them and will not ask anybody to play with either of them. Very few people wish to partner them and if they turn up alone they will probably not get a game.

Having already written the above, there was also a loud exchange between **Chuck Papparigian** and **Bob Short** on Friday. I do not know the details but any repeat performance and the culprit(s) will most certainly be suspended.

All four of the above named may consider themselves 'on notice'. Any further problem whatsoever and they will be suspended from the club. Since there are 4 of them they could set up their own little foursome – wouldn't that be fun?

This was totally typical Hans K 'bridge'. I adjusted the score to give him a zero: -

Dealer: ♠ 85  
 South ♥ AQ9742  
 E-W vul ♦ 4  
 ♣ AKJ4

♠ 92 N ♠ A763  
 ♥ K865 W E ♥ J10  
 ♦ J83 S ♦ 9762  
 ♣ Q762 ♣ 1083

♠ KQJ104  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ AKQ105  
 ♣ 95

Hans' Table

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♠
pass	2♥	pass	2NT (1)
pass	3♣	pass	3♦
pass	4♥	pass	4NT (2)
pass	pass (3)	pass	

- (1) Normally showing 12-14, but Hans is a beginner
- (2) Normally Blackwood. But at the same time as slapping the 4NT card on the table he loudly muttered 'meche' – which was understood to mean that he did not like ♥'s
- (3) And so North passed.

I was (quite correctly) called over to the table and said to play the hand out and if E-W felt that they were harmed then I would look at the score and alter it if necessary.

And what happened? 4NT made exactly (for an exact average score) and I was asked if the score should be adjusted. My opinion was:

- (a) South's gesture and comment were completely illegal.
- (b) Without them he would have got into the great 6NT contract that nobody bid.
- (c) There is one loser and then 12 tricks off the top however you play the cards (obviously taking the ♥ finesse only if you get an unlikely initial ♥ lead).
- (d) South has no idea how to play bridge and somehow managed the amazing feat of losing 3 tricks even when all of the (unnecessary) finesses work, I assumed he would 'play' the same in 6NT and so adjusted the score to 6NT-2.

And at other tables? Only one other pair looked for slam – but they reached 6♣ which is the only slam that does not make! That too went two down. 4♥ made just 10 tricks and the two players in 6NT made the obvious 12 tricks.

The bottom lines: -

- The aim of the Pattaya bridge Club is to be a friendly bridge club. People who disobey the rules **will** be thrown out.
- Fortunately I understand that a number of the rejects have got together and they occasionally have enough for a couple of tables of raucous bridge in the high season. I am quite happy to swell their numbers with other unruly players.
- I should not need to say that you may not make comments like this during the bidding or play. I have repeatedly told Hans this (I have frequently played with him as few others will). I will not tell him again. Once more and he's out.

## When RHO doubles

If your partner opens 1 of a suit and RHO doubles (take-out) then bidding is different from when there had been no double. The general scheme is: -

Example

- 1♥ dbl pass      Pass could be as much as 8 or so points but nothing else to bid.
- 1♥ dbl 2♥      A single raise. This is pre-emptive, often less than a raise without the double.
- 1♥ dbl 3♥      A jump raise. This is pre-emptive, often a distributional hand with say 6-8 pts.
- 1♥ dbl 4♥      A double jump raise. This is most definitely pre-emptive. It could well be a load of rubbish with 4 or 5 card support (depending upon vulnerability).
- 1♥ dbl 1NT      This is constructive, about 7-9 points. If partner had opened a major and RHO doubled then this bid would usually suggest a stopper in the other major.
- 1♦ dbl 1♠      A new suit at the one level. This is generally played as 4+ cards and forcing; although some believe that it is passable (responder would generally double with 9+ points). Others play that it's a 5+ card suit and weak. It's up to you but forcing unless you agree to the contrary.
- 1♥ dbl 2♣      A new suit at the two level. This is generally played as non-forcing (pre-emptive) and a six card suit.
- 1♦ dbl 2♠      A jump shift after a double. This is best played as pre-emptive, a six card suit and not much else. Higher bids are simply more pre-emptive.
- 1♥ dbl 2NT      Truscott 2NT (or Jordan 2NT). This is conventional (redouble with a balanced 9+ points). It shows a sound raise to the three level of partner's major.
- 1♥ dbl 3NT      3NT when partner opens a major. This can be played as conventional (because you redouble with a balanced 9+ points). The logical conventional meaning has to be a sound raise to the 4 level of partner's major but you could do that by bidding 2NT and then raising to the four level. So you could play this as a decent hand with a stop in the other major but not enough to penalise them (say a hand with a good long minor and a stop in the other major).
- 1♣ dbl 3NT      3NT when partner opens a minor. When partner has opened a minor it must be natural? This is up to your partnership and may depend upon vulnerability. Logically it would be a decent hand with a long minor suit and cover in both majors (but not good enough major suit holdings to go for the penalty with a redouble).
- 1♥ dbl redbl      This is looking for carnage; 9+ points, some say 10+. It is very often a mis-fit for partner and aiming to penalise the opponents in their final resting place, hopefully the grave. After this start, any pass by opener or responder is forcing and any double is penalties – the opening side have shown the balance of power, usually a mis-fit, and should never let the opponents play in an undoubled contract. The aim is to penalise the opponents and any subsequent NoTrump bid by opener or responder is 'impossible'.

## How to find a specific king.

Board 10 from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>

Nobody found 7NT on this board, and only 2 pairs bid 6NT: -

Dealer: ♠ AJ  
East ♥ J  
Both vul ♦ KQ82  
♣ AQ10843

♠ KQ1093	N	♠ 8764
♥ Q964	W E	♥ 108732
♦ 64	S	♦ J5
♣ J2		♣ 96
	♠ 52	
	♥ AK5	
	♦ A10973	
	♣ K75	

### Table A

West	North	East	South
-	-	pass	1♦
pass	2♣	pass	2♦
pass	4NT (1)	pass	5♥
pass	6♦ (2)	all pass	

### 'Expert' Table

West	North	East	South
-	-	pass	1♦
pass	2♣	pass	2♦
pass	4NT (1)	pass	5♥
pass	5NT (2)	pass	6♣ (3)
pass	7NT (4)	all pass	

- Table A: (1) Roman Keycard Blackwood for ♦'s.  
(2) With no way to discover if partner had the all-important ♣K, this North decided to settle for the safe ♦ slam.
- 'Expert' Table (1) This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> string expert pair. Most expert players do not play 4NT as Blackwood when a minor suit is trumps. Two possible schemes are Kickback (so 4♥ when ♦'s are trumps) or 4-of-the- minor as RKCB.  
(2) 5NT (or 5♥ if you play Kickback) asks for kings.  
(3) And the most popular expert approach is not to show the number of kings, but to show the suit of the cheapest king.  
(4) North can count. 6 ♣'s, 5 ♦'s and two aces = 13, if South has an additional king then that is irrelevant. Only locating the ♣K was important.

And what happened? Two pairs bid 6NT+1, one pair decided to go for the lower scoring 6♦+1 and the other two tables stopped in game.

The bottom lines: -

- I think it's best to play cheapest king in response to a RKCB king ask.
- But note that either scheme may get you uncomfortably high: if South does not have the ♣K then 6NT may well not be making and 6♦ much safer.
- If you want to avoid these (and other) problems which occur when any suit other than ♠'s are trumps, then read up on Kickback.
- If that is a bit overwhelming, then play 4-of-the- minor as RKCB with a minor suit as trumps.

A lay-down 7NT

Board 21 from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>

Bjorn sent me this play problem. I modified it slightly (by making the ♦ suit in the North hand solid from the jack downwards). How do you play in 7NT?

Dealer:       ♠ KQJ  
North         ♥ AQ  
N-S vul      ♦ J1097652  
              ♣ 3

<u>Table A</u>			
West	North	East	South
-	1♦	pass	2♣
pass	2♦	pass	6♣ (1)
all pass			

♠ 10732	N	♠ 98654
♥ J1098	W E	♥ 765432
♦ 3	S	♦ 84
♣ J654		♣ -
	♠ A	
	♥ K	
	♦ AKQ	
	♣ AKQ109872	

<u>Table B</u>			
West	North	East	South
-	1♦	pass	2♣
pass	2♦	pass	4NT (1)
pass	5♦	pass	7NT
all pass			

(1) I have been asked to vary my vocabulary, ‘pathetic’ is the best word I can find for this bid. South later said that he did not know how to bid the hand. Table B’s auction seems pretty obvious to me.

Anyway, it’s not about the bidding, which is ‘trivial’ but about the play. How do you make 7NT? At one table South simply claimed and East asked him how he was going to play it. Whether he was always going to adopt the correct line or whether the question prompted him into thinking about a possible 4-0 ♣ break we will never know.

Anyway, after a few second thought he said play the ♥A, discard the ♠A on the ♥Q, discard the ♦AKQ on the ♥KQJ, run the ♦’s and score the 13<sup>th</sup> trick with the ♣A in hand. Well done.

And what happened at other tables? One other pair had the obvious auction but went one down when he did not spot the catch of the 4-0 ♣ break.

The bottom lines: -

- Do you want me to put in a few more of these hands now and again?

## Defence to weak two's – part 1

Board 13 from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>

What was your answer to sequence L in this week's quiz?

Dealer: ♠ AJ86543  
North ♥ 95  
both vul ♦ 5  
♣ 863

West	North	East(A)	South
-	2♠ (1)	2NT (2)	dbl
pass	pass	3♣	3♠
all pass			

♠ 1097	N	♠ 2
♥ K107	W E	♥ J63
♦ Q832	S	♦ AK106
♣ Q95		♣ KJ1042
	♠ KQ	
	♥ AQ843	
	♦ J974	
	♣ A7	

- (1) Being vulnerable, this North decided to open just 2♠.
- (2) What did you bid with this East hand A in this week's quiz? I guess that dbl is reasonable, but I prefer to have 4♥'s for that bid although I would not argue if that's what you chose. 3♣ seems very sensible to me. This East thought that 2NT was 'the Unusual NoTrump'. It is not. 2NT here is 15-18+ with a ♠ stop(s). And apart from that, this hand is just another example of the UNT being the 'most abused convention out there' – the hand is not 5-5 and it is far too strong. So, three mistakes in just one bid, not bad for Ian.

And what happened? 3♠ made +1 and 4♠ was bid and made at two other tables. 4♠ should not make of course. East led the ♦A and then found the excellent trump switch. Declarer won in dummy and led the ♣A and another; West correctly went up with the ♣Q and was all set to remove dummy's last trump but East overtook it with the ♣K! Declarer went up with the ♥A on East's ♥ lead, ruffed a ♦ and was then able to ruff a ♣ in dummy and make 10 tricks. East's 'reasoning' was the he thought that West wanted a ♥ through – that is unsound thinking as if West has the ♥K (as he almost certainly has) it will not go away.

The bottom lines: -

- 2NT over a weak two opening is natural and strong (15-18+ with a stop).
- There is no such thing as a pre-empt over a pre-empt.
- The UNT is the most abused convention out there, it is not a good 12 points and it is not 5-4 in the minors.
- If you have embarked on a (correct) defence of removing dummy's trumps – then do not overtake partner's winner if you are now out of trumps!
- Don't change horses in mid stream.

## Defence to weak two's – part 2

Board 22 from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>

What was your answer to sequence P in this week's quiz?

Dealer:	♠ A8				
East	♥ A854	West	North	East	South(D)
E-W vul	♦ A6	-	-	pass	pass
	♣ AQ974	2♠	2NT (1)	3♠	pass
		pass	dbl (2)	pass	4♦ (3)
		all pass			
♠ K65432	N	♠ Q109			
♥ Q10	W E	♥ K976			
♦ J75	S	♦ KQ2			
♣ 105		♣ J86			
	♠ J7				
	♥ J32				
	♦ 109843				
	♣ K32				

- (1) Unlike the previous East, this North knew that 2NT was natural.
- (2) What was your answer to sequence P in this weeks quiz? This is penalties. North has advertised a strong hand with decent ♠'s, it seems to me that he is going for the vulnerable penalty rather than inviting partner to bid a new suit at the 4-level. If North wanted partner to bid he would have doubled at (1) rather than bid 2NT.
- (3) What did you bid with this South hand D in this week's quiz? Pass is correct, this South thought that the double was for take-out.

And what happened? 2♠ doubled would have been one down and that 200 would have been a clear top to N-S. 4♦ should go two down but the defenders messed it up and it made for a clear top to N-S anyway. Rather lucky.

The bottom lines: -

- When you bid a natural NoTrump, then a subsequent double is for penalties.
- Normally when the opponents bid and agree a suit then a double is take-out, but I believe that the sentence above has precedence.
- So, as I see it, a No Trump overcall - showing a semi-balanced big hand with stop(s) followed by a double is definitely penalties.

Consider these two sequences N & P: -

N	2♠	dbl	3♠	pass	2♠ is weak, dble is take-out...
	pass	dbl			... the 2 <sup>nd</sup> double is also for take-out.
P	2♠	2NT	3♠	pass	2♠ is weak, 2NT is natural with decent ♠ stop(s)...
	pass	dbl			... the double here, having bid NoTrump, is penalties.



The usual guidelines for defence against weak twos also apply to Muiderberg. But as I stated in my paper on the convention, opponents should often look for the penalty as it's only a 5 card suit. That usually means that one should frequently double in the balancing seat: -

Dealer:	♠ 72				
South	♥ J10953	West	North(C)	East(E)	South
E-W vul	♦ A8	-	-	-	2♠ (1)
	♣ KQ103	pass (2)	pass (3)	pass (4)	
♠ AJ1083	N	♠ K			
♥ Q	W E	♥ AK86			
♦ K1095	S	♦ J76432			
♣ 875		♣ J4			
	♠ Q9654				
	♥ 742				
	♦ Q				
	♣ A962				

- (1) Muiderberg; weak with 5 ♠'s and a 4/5 card minor. I guess it's OK at this vulnerability.
- (2) West has to pass (dbl is take-out) and hope that partner bids a balancing double.
- (3) What did you bid with this North hand C in this week's quiz? South criticised North, saying that he should bid 2NT (looking for the minor) and when the expected 3♦ comes back he can retreat into his 5-card ♥ suit. This is absolute nonsense in my opinion. When N-S are known to have the minority of the points it seems ridiculous to me to show all 4 suits (and so a mis-fit) and end up at the 3-level doubled. North's pass of 2♠ is obviously correct.
- (4) What did you bid with this East hand E in this week's quiz? Especially against the Muiderberg pre-empt (just a 5 card suit) double is clear as partner is very likely to have a ♠ stack and if he does bid 3♣ the you can retreat into 3♦. I would double here even with a lot less points than this.

And what happened? 2♠ went 5 down. At another table East did indeed double at (4) and they got a top for setting it just 3 tricks.

The bottom lines: -

- When your partner opens 2♥/♠ Muiderberg and you have two card support for the major and a 4-card minor it is foolhardy to hope to find a minor suit fit. The odds are well against it and you are simply a level higher and inviting a double. In this example North's pass at (3) was 100% correct.
- I have written up Muiderberg as a couple of pairs play it. But if you do, then be prepared to sometimes go for a number against experienced opposition who know when to balance with a double.
- When LHO pre-empts and this is passed round to you then you should double with shortage in the suit bid – partner probably has a stack. This is especially true if the opponent opens a Muiderberg 2♥/♠ when the suit is just a 5-carder.
- Normally a double is take-out and playable in the other 3 suits, but it's usually best to forget about this criteria is partner is likely to have the penalty hand type.

I have written up an article on defence to weak twos. It's on the web under 'Basic Bidding'.



## Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: 3♣. Double is reasonable but I would prefer four and/or better ♥'s. 2NT is not the Unusual No Trump but shows a bigger hand with a ♠ stop.
- Hand B: Pass. Partner's jump is weak after a double, usually a six card suit.
- Hand C: Pass. If you ask for minors (with 2NT or 3♣, whatever you use) then the odds are that partner will bid 3♦ and then whatever you do you will end up playing in a 3-level doubled contract with a total mis-fit.
- Hand D: Pass. Partner's double is penalties. If he wanted to hear a suit from you he would have doubled first time.
- Hand E: Double. This is similar to the 'automatic double' when playing negative doubles. Partner probably has a ♠ stack (especially as opener is known to have only a 5 card ♠ suit). With ♠ shortage I would double even with far less points.
- Hand F: (a) 2NT. I don't think it's quite good enough for 2♣.  
(b) Pass. Partner's double is penalties and with a bid balanced hand you should simply go for the vulnerable penalty.

## Bidding Sequences Quiz Answers

- G** 2♣ 2♠ dbl 2♣ is strong, dbl is penalties.
- H** 1♦ dbl 1♠ What is the 1♠ bid - this is a bit of a trick question. 1♠ is usually weakish (redouble with 9+ points) but it is generally played as forcing. Some do play it as weak, 5 cards, and non-forcing.
- J** 1♦ dbl 2♣ What is the 2♣ bid - weakish and non-forcing.
- K** 1♦ dbl 2♠ What is the 2♠ jump - weakish and non-forcing.
- L** 2♠ 2NT What is the 2NT overcall? Natural, strong, with a ♠ stop.
- M** 2♠ 3NT What is the 3NT overcall? Natural, very strong, with a ♠ stop.
- N** 2♠ dbl 3♠ pass 2♠ is weak, dble is take-out...  
pass dbl ... the 2<sup>nd</sup> double is also for take-out.
- P** 2♠ 2NT 3♠ pass 2♠ is weak, 2NT is natural with decent ♠ stop(s)...  
pass dbl ... the double here, having bid NoTrump, is penalties.